

**Extraordinary Circumstances
Documentation
Paleontology Excavation in Coyote Basin, UT
DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0250-CX**

**Prepared by
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management**

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Chapter 1. Categorical Exclusion Rationale

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CX Number:	DOI-BLM-UT-G010-2014-0250-CX
Date:	9/2/2014
Lease/Case File/ Serial Number:	
Regulatory Authority (CFR or Law):	

Section 1.1 Impacts on Public Health and Safety

1. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on public health and safety?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not have significant impacts on public health and safety

Section 1.2 Impacts on Natural Resources or Unique Geographic Characteristics

2. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness or wilderness study areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds (Executive Order 13186); and other ecologically significant or critical areas?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist — Alec Bryan., recreation

Rationale: This action will not have a significant impact on sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands or floodplains.

There are no recreation concerns within the two areas of the proposed action: No Natural areas, WSR, etc.

Section 1.3 Level of Controversy

3. Does the proposed action have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2)(E)]?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.

Section 1.4 Highly Uncertain or Unique or Unknown Environmental Risks

4. Does the proposed action have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks.

Section 1.5 Precedent Setting

5. Does the proposed action establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not establish a precedent for future action, or represent a decision in principle about future actions, with potentially significant environmental effects.

Section 1.6 Cumulatively Significant Effects

6. Does the proposed action have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant, environmental effects.

Section 1.7 Impacts on Cultural Properties

7. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the Bureau or office?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Erin Goslin, Archaeologist

Rationale: Two archaeological surveys were conducted in the project area (U-04–MQ-0510 and U-07–MQ-1437) and there were no eligible archaeological sites identified.

Section 1.8 Impacts on Federally Listed Species or Critical Habitat

8. Does the proposed action have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Plants: Christine Cimiluca, Acting Botanist Wildlife: Brandon McDonald

Rationale: Both sites are within the 2013 USFWS potential habitat polygon for *Sclerocactus* *ssp.* Known points have been documented at the first site, which is also in Core Conservation Area (CCA) Level 1 for the cactus species. However, these points are located on the opposite side of the access road from the project site. If a qualified biological monitor is present during the excavation, and other mitigation measures (included as conditions of approval) are followed, then the proposed project would not have significant impacts on TECP plant species.

In review of district files and a site visit there are no threatened, endangered, proposed, or candidate fish or wildlife species (including their designated habitats) within the project area.

Section 1.9 Compliance With Laws

9. Does the proposed action violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment.

Section 1.10 Environmental Justice

10. Does the proposed action have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Elizabeth Gamber, geologist

Rationale: The proposed action does not have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.

Section 1.11 Indian Sacred Sites

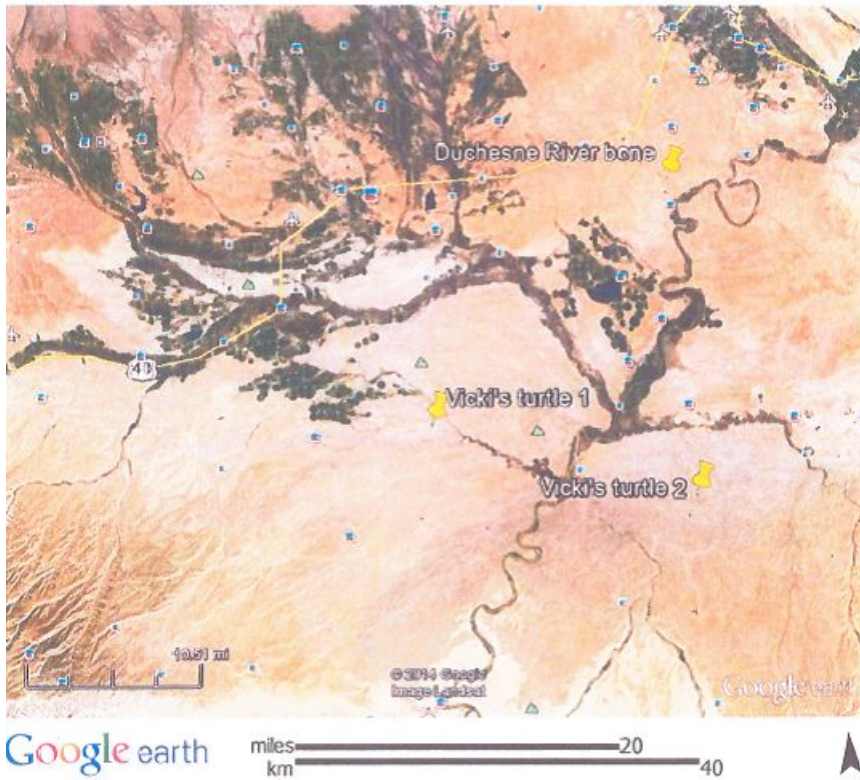
11. Does the proposed action limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (Executive Order 13007)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Erin Goslin, Archaeologist

Rationale: There are no identified Indian sacred sites in the project area and access will not be hindered for any unidentified sacred sites.

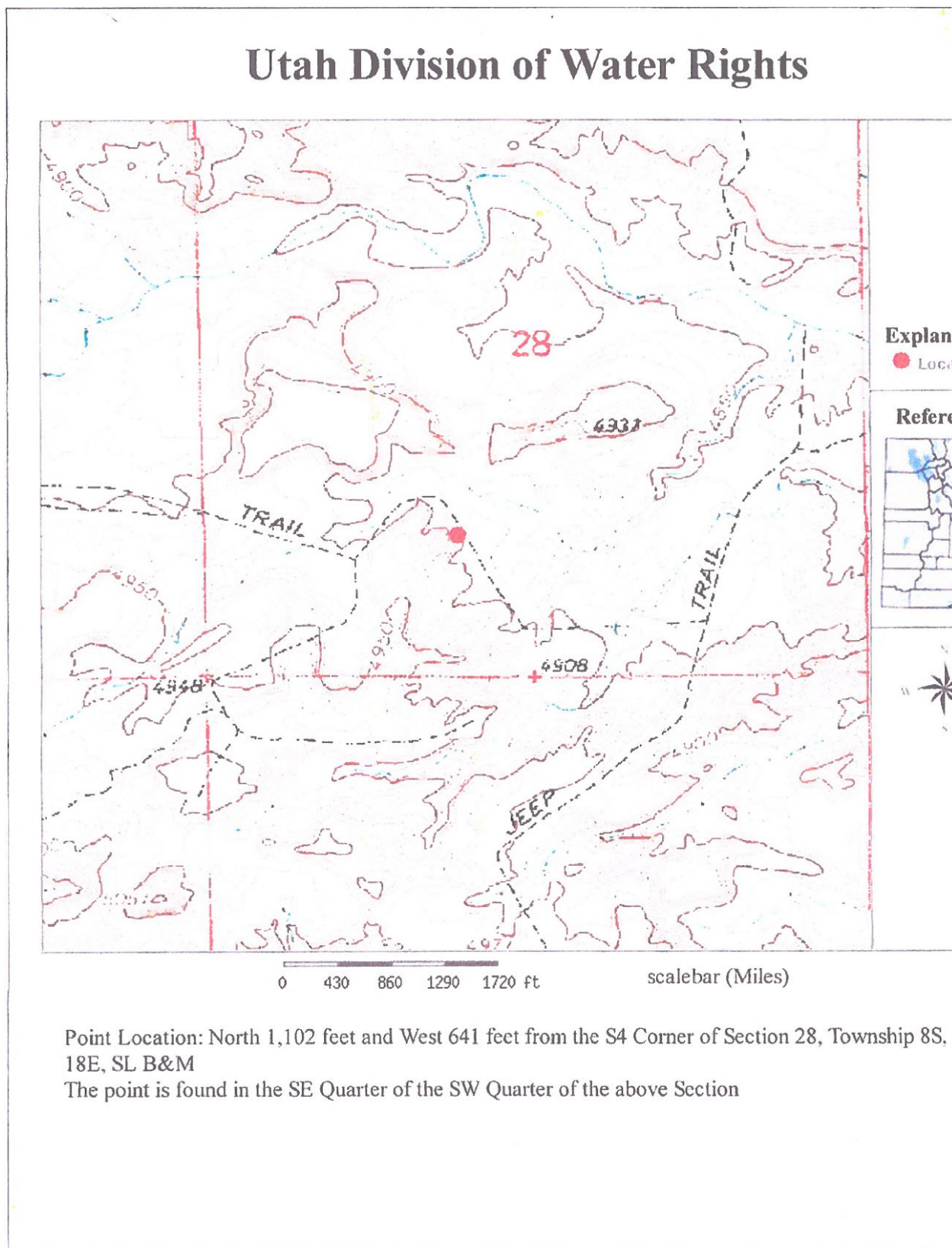
Section 1.12 Noxious and Non-Native Invasive Species

12. Does the proposed action contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area, or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act and Executive Order 13112)?		
YES	NO	REVIEWER/TITLE
	X	Christine Cimiluca, Acting Botanist

Rationale: The proposed action should not contribute to the introduction, continued existence or spread of noxious weeds and invasive plant species due to the small amount of surface disturbance and the location of the proposed activities.

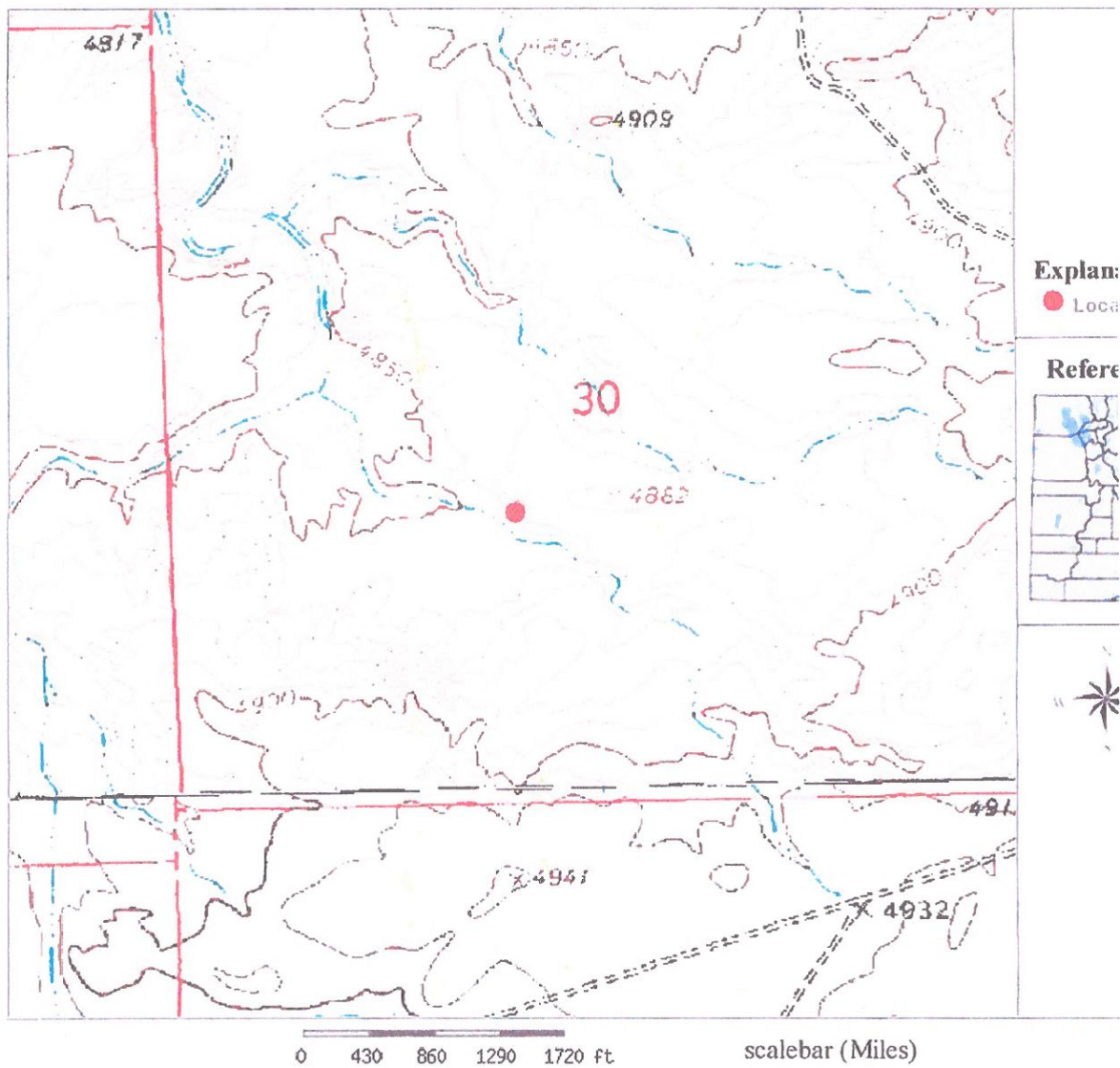


Area Map Showing Both Sites



Map of Site 1

Utah Division of Water Rights



Point Location: North 1,846 feet and West 633 feet from the S4 Corner of Section 30, Township 9S, Range 21E, SL B&M

The point is found in the NE Quarter of the SW Quarter of the above Section

Map of Site 2

Appendix A.

Botany Conditions of Approval for Coyote Basin Fossil Sites

Conditions of Approval: The following measures will be applied as a condition of approval (COA):

- Documented cactus within the 300 foot survey buffers would be flagged for avoidance during construction and drilling activities.
- A qualified biological monitor would be present during surface disturbing activities to ensure that documented individual cactus are not disturbed.
- Seed mixes to be used for reclamation should exclude introduced and non-native species.
- Erosion control measures (i.e. silt fencing) will be implemented to minimize sedimentation to *Sclerocactus ssp.* plants and populations located down slope of proposed surface disturbance activities when working in all cactus habitats.
- *Discovery Stipulation:* Initiation of Section 7 consultation with the USFWS will be sought immediately if any loss of plants or occupied habitat for Pariette cactus or Uinta Basin hookless cactus is anticipated as a result of project activities.